

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Pilsen Soil Operable Unit 2 Residential - Removal Polrep



US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region V

952330

**Subject:** POLREP #14  
Progress  
Pilsen Soil Operable Unit 2 Residential  
C5N8RV02  
Chicago, IL

**To:** Bruce Everetts, Illinois EPA  
Mark Johnson, ATSDR  
Vicente Sanchez, Alderman Solis (Chief of Staff)  
Dave Graham, Chicago Dept. of Health  
Terry Sheahan, Chicago Dept. of Health  
Doug Ballotti, USEPA  
Samuel Borries, EPA Region 5  
Blaine Kinsley, IL EPA  
Peachey Robert, EPA Region 5  
EOC HQ, EPA HQ

**From:** Ramon Mendoza, On-Scene Coordinator

**Date:** 11/20/2017

**Reporting Period:** 10/28/2017 to 11/17/2017

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	C5N8RV02	<b>Contract Number:</b>	
<b>D.O. Number:</b>		<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	8/3/2015
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Time-Critical
<b>Response Lead:</b>	PRP	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	2
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	12/19/2016	<b>Start Date:</b>	12/20/2016
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>Completion Date:</b>	
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>	ILN000504472	<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

1.1.1 Incident Category

This time critical removal action is a PRP lead under an EPA Unilateral Administrative Order.

1.1.2 Site Description

Pilsen Soil Operable Unit 2 (OU2) Residential Site : Operable Unit (OU) 2 is a residential area bounded by West 18th Place to the north, a north-south alley between South Allport Street and South Racine Avenue to the east, West 21st Street to the south, and South Loomis Street to the west. There are about 178 residential properties in this 25-acre OU2 site. About 116 of the properties have non-permanent covers in their yards such as bare soil, grass or gravel and are the focus of EPA actions. In 2010, approximately 1,563 people lived within the boundaries of the Site, and the residential yards have high accessibility to sensitive populations including young children and pregnant women.

1.1.2.1 Location Chicago, Illinois 60608

See Site Description

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

The lead concentration in surface soils are above the EPA screening level of 400 mg/kg lead in residential yards and gardens. Residents living in these homes may be exposed to the lead in these surface soils.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

EPA conducted Site Assessment activities in 2013 to 2015 with additional residential parcels in 2016 sampled. Lead was found in surface soils in the residential yards and gardens above the EPA removal management level of 400 parts per million. The average Site surface soil lead concentrations were 1,412 mg/kg. There is an estimated population of around 1,563 people including children living, walking, working, and playing on the contaminated surface soils in the Site. These people have a high accessibility to residential yards including sensitive populations such as young children and pregnant women. EPA's risk assessment concluded that the soil concentrations of lead at the Site are at an unacceptable risk level to the residents accessing the Site.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

### 2.1.1 Narrative

Initial residential soil cleanup work was conducted from 12/20 - 23, 2016. After taking a break from the winter season, residential yard cleanup was restarted on April 24, 2017. EPA OSC and START provided part time oversight of removal activities on site, collected soil samples as needed, and conducted XRF analysis as needed. GHD (H.Kramer's contractor) had representatives on-site to oversee the removal work. Removal work was also conducted by GHD's contractor RW Collins. START and/or EPA OSC, documented property specific removal activities by recording field notes and by taking photographs. Air monitoring as required by OSHA was conducted by GHD.

**2.1.2 Response Actions to Date** The following work was conducted from 10/28/17 to 11/17/2017. (Work from December 2016 through 10/27/2017 is documented in POLREPs #1 to 13). Cleanup was conducted at 9 homes and completed at 8 homes during this period.

Work was conducted after H. Kramer's contractor (GHD) contacted the owners and agreed on a scope of work in writing. Below is a removal status summary of each of the properties. All 9 properties were 3-4 ft. below the street level with limited access, which made excavation work more difficult and time consuming. GHD conducted project management, particulate air monitoring during excavation and backfill activities at the residential and soil staging areas. RW Collins contractor/laborers conducted the physical work of excavation and backfilling of soil and also managed the soil at the H. Kramer property staging area.

In general, lead contaminated soil was excavated by hand with shovels and fed into a vacuum hose to the vacuum truck. After it was filled the truck was driven to the soil staging area at H. Kramer's truck yard and the soil was transferred to steel containers, which are then transported for disposal to a solid waste landfill (Waste Management, Laraway) in Joliet IL. For backfilling, clean soil was transferred from the flatbed truck to the yard by conveyor belts, shovels and wheelbarrows to backfill. An orange fence marker was placed at the bottom of the excavation before backfilling. Final surface cover could be gravel, soil, or sod (new grass), depending on the owner preference.

Air monitoring at the homes and staging area did not show violations of the OSHA PEL criteria during this reporting period. Dust control practices were being conducted using plastic sheets to partition indoor spaces in garages on Allport. Workers wore level D with rubber booties and gloves during excavation of lead contaminated. GHD provided a boot wash to protect workers and minimize soil migration outside of the work area.

During this period, EPA used handheld XRF as a tool to analyze the bottom of excavations for lead. EPA may allow shallower excavations (less than 2 feet) if the lead in soil is less than the cleanup goal of 400 mg/kg lead.

**Non-Responsive** Week of 10/30-11/03 - Crews continued excavation and backfill of yards and gardens at 5 homes all next to one another. Excavation work was completed at 2 of the 5 homes on 10/30 (excavation work had previously been completed at the remaining 3 of the 5 homes). Backfill work at the 5 homes all next to one another began on 10/31. Backfill and restoration work was completed at 3 of the 5 homes as of 11/03. Backfill was completed with soil and the excavated areas were restored with sod. 1 property did not receive sod at the request of the owner.

**Non-Responsive** and **Non-Responsive** Week of 11/06-11/10 - Backfill and restoration work was completed at the 2 of 5 remaining homes on **Non-Responsive**. Backfill was completed with soil and gravel. Restoration included sod placement in the front yard areas of both properties. Removal work began on 11/09 at the property on **Non-Responsive**. Removal work was completed on 11/10 at the property on **Non-Responsive**. Property only had backyard soil and garden areas for removal work.

**Non-Responsive** **Non-Responsive** and **Non-Responsive** Week of 11/13-11/17 - Backfill and restoration work began on 11/13 and was completed on 11/14 at the property on **Non-Responsive**. Backfill was completed with soil and restoration included the replacement of excavated river rock. Removal work began and was completed at the property on **Non-Responsive** on 11/15 (side garden and yard area south of home, remainder of yard areas sampled and lead concentrations were below cleanup goal of 400 mg/kg lead). Backfill and restoration work began and was completed at the property on **Non-Responsive** on 11/16 (soil in side garden area and sod in side yard area south of home). Removal work began at the property on **Non-Responsive** on 11/17.

**Media Interest:** There was no media interest during the reporting period.

### 2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

During EPA's Removal Site Evaluation (2013-14), H. Kramer & Co. was identified as a significant contributor to the lead found in surface soils in the residential parcels at the Site, due to historical fugitive air emissions of dust which contained lead (slag and zinc oxide). The response work is being overseen by EPA/START contractor and is being conducted by H. Kramer's contractors under a Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) issued by the USEPA (Sept. 2016). Previous sampling work was conducted from April to June 2016 by H. Kramer's contractors at the Site under an EPA (CERCLA Administrative Order on Consent; to determine the amount of homes above the lead screening level of 400 mg/kg which needed to be cleaned up.

### 2.1.4 Progress Metrics :

As of Nov. 17, 2017, 48 residential parcels have undergone cleanup and completed or have been removed from the cleanup list.

During the reporting period, 41.99 tons of lead contaminated soil was disposed. As of the week of Oct. 30, 2017, H Kramer's contractors have disposed of 672.99 tons of non-hazardous lead contaminated soil to the solid waste landfill facility in Joliet, IL.; since excavations of parcels were initiated in Dec. 2016.

Waste	Quantity	Manifest	Treatment	Disposal
Medium	(in tons)			









